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CONGRESS OF HUNGARIAN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, JUNE 1952

/Comment: The following contains a summary of an address to the congress by Gyorgy Osztrovszki, the resolution adopted by the congress, and a list of awards and member societies./

Address by Gyorgy Osztrovszki

The MTESZ (Muszaki es Termeszettudomanyi Egyesuletek Szovetsege, Association of Technical and Scientific Societies) held its third congress 21 - 22 June 1952. The congress was attended by several cabinet ministers and approximately 1,000 members of the societies represented. The main speaker was Gyorgy Osztrovszki, whose address is summarized as follows:

Since the second congress of the MTESZ, held 2 years ago, the member societies have been active in helping Hungary's economic development. In the field of material conservation, the Ball Bearing Bronze Committee, established within the National Mining and Metallurgical Society, has been particularly successful and its work has resulted in savings totaling 20 million forints. Other member societies have performed useful work in the conservation of wood, steel, cement, and motor and railroad fuels.

On the other hand, little progress has been made in the development of natural resources. It is particularly regrettable that the Geological Society and the Society of Hungarian Chemists have failed to produce any results whatever and that their members participated only sporadically in the work of other socieites.

Hungary's economic future depends to a large extent on the development of the country's resources for power production. In this field the Society for Power Production and Distribution and the Hydrological Society have achieved outstanding results. The Society for Power Production and Distribution has given valuable help in solving the problem of heating Budapest, in the drying technology employed by the textile industry, in the heat technology of the

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paper manufacturing industry, etc. The Hydrological Society has been actively engaged in problems concerning the utilization of the water power of the Danube and Tisza rivers.

A general fault of the specialists and committees doing research work in water power has been the neglect of irrigation, canalization, and water transport. As a result, for a long time it was doubtful whether the building of water power works would be profitable. However, recent investigations, and the experience gained in the construction of the Tiszalok and Soviet water-power works have clearly shown that water-power projects would be highly useful in supplementing domestic coal production and providing irrigation to the Great Plain.

Another fault was the view that prime-quality coal should be economized and the mining and use of lignite of low calorie content should be developed. Had this been followed in practice, Hungarian coal mining would soon have been brought into a very difficult position. Last year, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences re-examined the question and decided that it would be best to design the new power works to fire good-quality coal waste, or part coal and part slate, instead of lignite. The new mines in the Tata-Dorog-Egercsehi basin will, therefore, be designed to exploit good-quality coal deposits.

Aside from raising the output volume of the machine-manufacturing industry, largely as a result of the efforts of the Scientific Society for the Machine Manufacturing Industry, technological progress in this field has been unsatisfactory. Currently, Hungarian machine manufacture is running the danger of falling qualitatively below the products of foreign competitors. Hungarian machine tools are expensive and conservative in design and Hungary still lacks a ball-bearing industry. Hungary is also losing ground in communications and vacuum-tube technology, responsibility for which rests largely on the Scientific Society for Communications Technology.

The mechanization of labor and electrification are other fields in which progress has been disappointing, largely because an over-all program is lacking. The mechanization of agriculture, for example, hinges on two machines: the plowing tractor and the harvester combine. Also, Hungarian engineers are generally unfamiliar with modern tooling and with automatic installations, especially in open-hearth furnaces, rolling mills, and railroad traffic.

On the other hand, good work has been performed in the dissemination of modern technology by the Society of Optics and Kinotechnics, which laid the groundwork for the manufacture of plastic film and sensitized emulsions; by the Scientific Society for the Textile Industry in organizing modern cotton mills; by the Michurin Society for Agricultural Science in fertilizing methods; and by the National Forestry Society in afforestation work.

In general, the member societies have neglected to pay attention to the improvement of quality in production. On the other hand, it is gratifying to note that the work of member societies in introducing modern techniques has been based on Soviet experiences and the support of the Stakhanovite and innovation movements.

In this connection it may be noted that the main obstacle to the introduction of innovations is the antagonistic attitude of managements and technical personnel. In addition, the training of technical cadres is also neglected, thus retarding, for example, the employment of coal-mining combines and the Kota blasting method. [redacted] For these reasons, the substantial advance in technical education, especially in engineering, during the last year is highly gratifying.

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It is undeniable that research in plant-organization methods declined last year. The member societies assumed that they were not required to continue their work in this field in view of the creation of the Scientific Society for Plant Organization. However, this assumption is erroneous and the member societies will do well to develop modern methods in the cyclic work system, planned production, even flow of production, etc. Similar problems in agriculture are: labor organization on large farms, proper location of farm buildings, fodder crop rotation, etc.

The high level of Hungarian technical literature is indicated by the fact that 28 technical periodicals are being published by the member societies. However, most periodicals fail to engage in the ideological struggle. One of the few exceptions in this respect is the Magyar Kemikusok Lapja (Journal of Hungarian Chemists). As regards the introduction of Soviet experiences, it may be stated that never before have so many Hungarian specialists studied abroad as at present.

The relationship between the member societies and government authorities is relatively satisfactory. On the other hand, cooperation between the societies and the plants is poor. To improve cooperation, the introduction of socialist contracts is recommended. Such contracts have already been concluded between the Scientific Society for the Building Materials Industry on the one hand and the Labatlani Cementgyar (Labatlan Cement Factory) and the Salgotarjani Uvegarugyar (Salgotarjan Glassware Factory) on the other.

Resolutions

The congress adopted the following resolutions:

1. The 25 member societies of the MTESZ will place their work in the service of the Five-Year Plan.

2. The member societies will devote their work to the following principal fields:

a. Basic materials, quality, costs: (1) research leading toward broadening the production of basic materials, particularly in the fields of coal mining, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, and the building industry; (2) conservation of materials, especially in imported products; and (3) improvement of quality and modernization of industrial products and technological discipline.

b. Soviet science and technology: dissemination and introduction of Soviet scientific methods.

c. New techniques: broad dissemination of new industrial, mining, and agricultural techniques.

d. Planned production: (1) introduction of the dispatcher service (see OO-W-23175); (2) production according to charts; (3) preventive maintenance; (4) better cooperation between plants; and (5) higher level of management.

e. Stakhanovite movement: (1) study and dissemination of Stakhanovite experiences by the Kovalev system, and (2) conclusion of socialist contracts between scientists and workers.

f. Cadre training: (1) advanced study by members; (2) support extended to the Mernoki Tovabbkepzo Intezet (Institute for Advanced Engineering Training); and (3) correspondence and night courses for engineers.

3. The MTESZ pledges to remedy its past shortcoming in the guidance of scientific work. To realize this object, it undertakes the following tasks: (1) to include younger people in its membership; (2) to check the implementation of its resolutions; (3) to create a nonindustrial organization for the purpose of conducting ideological debates; (4) to tighten cooperation between the MTESZ and local groups throughout the country; (5) to arrange technical conferences and cooperation between member societies on the problems of the Five-Year Plan; and (6) to organize groups in all large-scale plants for solving local technical problems and giving aid to the managements and to the Stakhanovite and innovation movements.

Awards, List of Member Societies

A memorial plaque (emleklap) in recognition of successful sociological work performed in technical and scientific societies was awarded to the following /note that the award was made for sociological rather than scientific work/:

Akarat, Endre (Magyar Elektrotechnikai Egyesulet, Hungarian Electrotechnical Society)

Balla, Imre (Magyar Elektrotechnikai Egyesulet)

Barcza, Laszlo (Hiradastechnikai Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Telecommunication Technology)

Bence, Mrs Gyorgy (MTESZ)

Benedek, Attila (Orszagos Erdeszeti Egyesulet, National Forestry Society)

Bohm, Nandor (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for the Machine Industry)

Daniel, Mrs Lajos (Orszagos Banyaszati es Kohaszati Egyesulet, National Mining and Metallurgical Society)

Edinger, Karoly (Magyar Elektrotechnikai Egyesulet)

Felkai, Istvan (Uzemi Tervgazdasagi es Szervezesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Plant Planned Economy and Organization)

Ferenczi, Gyorgy (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Fekete, Bela (Micsurin Agrartudomanyi Egyesulet, Michurin Scientific Society for Agriculture)

Fischer, Imre (Textilipari Muszaki Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Technical Scientific Society for the Textile Industry)

Fodor, Gyorgy (Uzemi Tervgazdasagi es Szervezesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Frank, Laszlo (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Frank, Tibor (Textilipari Muszaki Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Garadnai, Antal (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Garai, Laszlo (Hiradastechnikai Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Gardos, Erno (Magyar Kemikusok Egyesulete, Society of Hungarian Chemists)

Gerendas, Istvan (Magasepitesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Building Construction)

Hilvert, Elek (Kozlekedes es Melyepitestudomanyi Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Transportation and Subsurface Construction)

Horvath, Gyula (Merestechnikai es Automatizalasi Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Metronomy and Mechanization)

Hodi, Endre (Bolyai Janos Matematikai Tarsasag, Bolyai Janos Mathematical Society)

Izsak, Miklos (Hiradastechnikai Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Kadar, Miklos (Optikai es Kinotechnikai Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Optics and Kinotechnics)

Kenese, Istvan (Boripari Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for the Leather Industry)

Knizsek, Ferenc (Uzemi Tervgazdasagi es Szervezesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Koranyi, Gyorgy (Epitoanyagipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for the Building Materials Industry)

Kulin, Istvan (Magyar Meteorologiai Tarsulat, Hungarian Meteorological Society)

Lanczi, Laszlo (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Lengyel, Sandor (Magyar Kemikusok Egyesulete)

Libik, Gyorgy (Magyar Kemikusok Egyesulete)

Lorand, Ivan (Boripari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Lorand, Sara (Magyar Elektrotechnikai Egyesulet)

Lorincz, Imre (Energiagazdalkodasi Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for Power Production and Distribution)

Martos, Ferenc (Orszagos Banyaszati es Kohaszati Egyesulet)

Mate, Gyorgy (Magyar Technika, Hungarian Technic [monthly periodical])

Maucha, Rezso (Magyar Hidrologiai Tarsasag, Hungarian Hydrological Society)

Meszaros, Janos (Uzemi Tervgazdasagi es Szervezesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Mincsev, Mrs Mihaly (Magyar Kemikusok Egyesulete)

Mokry, Flora (MTESZ)

Mosonyi, Emil (Magyar Hidrologiai Tarsasag)

Morvay, Sandor (Papir es Nyomdaipari Muszaki Egyesulet, Technical Society for the Paper and Printing Industries)

Nogradi, Laszlo (Kozlekedes es Melyepitestudomanyi Egyesulet)

Rados, Kornel (Magasepitesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Rakosi Istvan (Energiagazdalkodasi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Renyi Alfred (Bolyai Janos Matematikai Tarsulat)

Roka, Pal (Faipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for the Wood Industry)

Sattler, Tamas (Magyar Kemikusok Egyesulete)

Sebestyen, Endre (Textilipari Muszaki Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Sebok, Laszlo (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Somos, Gyula (Mezogazdasagi Ipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet, Scientific Society for the Agricultural Industry)

Striker, Gyorgy (Merestechnikai es Automatizalasi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Szabo, Denes (Faipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Szadeczky Kardoss, Elemer (Magyar Foldtani Tarsulat, Hungarian Geological Society)

Szanto, Tibor (Papir es Nyomdaipari Muszaki Egyesulet)

Szelenyi, Ferenc (Micsurin Agrartudomanyi Egyesulet)

Takats, Laszlo (Magyar Technika)

Talyigas, Ferenc (Gepipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Telegdi, Sandor (Magasepitesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Tokar, Peter (Magyar Tavirati Iroda, Hungarian Telegraph Bureau [news agency])

Torok, Gabor (Mezogazdasagi Ipari Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Ungar, Ferenc (Uzemi Tervgazdasagi es Szervezesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Vajda, Mrs Zoltan (Magasepitesi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

Varga, Ferenc (Orszagos Banyaszati es Kohaszati Egyesulet)

Varga, Jeno (Kozlekedesi es Melyepitestudomanyi Egyesulet)

Vince, Mrs Pal (MTESZ)

Zsigmond, Bela (Energiagazdalkodasi Tudomanyos Egyesulet)

[Only 24 member societies are named in the foregoing list. The 25th was identified as the Eotvos Lorand Fizikai Tarsulat (Eotvos Lorand Physical Society) in a separate item in the same periodical.]

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